

# NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION



## Information Letter



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### Another Reminder

The date on which the pack statistics for corn, wax and string beans, and tomatoes can be issued by the Census Bureau depends largely, if not entirely, on the canners of these products. The Bureau is prepared to complete the compilation of the statistics, but tabulations cannot be finished until the figures are received from individual canners.

Canners who have not filled in and returned the schedules sent them by the Census Bureau are urged to give the matter their prompt attention.

### Production and Stocks of Cucumbers for Pickling

The estimate of preliminary production of cucumbers for pickling, based upon reported yields of the harvested crop, is 3,342,000 bushels, which is 14 per cent below the estimated production of 1928, but is substantially larger than the short crop of 1927. On an acreage estimated at 6 per cent larger than that of 1928, the yield per acre is 10 bushels, or one-sixth lower than the average yield of last year. Lower yields have been obtained in all states except Colorado, California and Washington.

Reports from packers representing nearly three-fourths of the 1929 estimated acreage of cucumbers for pickling indicate that the receipts of green stocks this year are 2,336,413 bushels, or only 72 per cent of 1928 receipts. Of 72 firms reporting, 56 reported October 1 stocks for both 1929 and 1928. These reports indicate that the total stocks of pickles in tanks or barrels on October 1, 1929 were one-fourth less than on October 1, 1928.

For all firms reporting, the total stocks in tanks or barrels this year consist of about 80 per cent Salt and 20 per cent Dill. Carryover makes up more than a third of the total and consists almost entirely of Salt stock.

#### Wax and Green Bean Pack in New York

This year's pack of green beans in New York, as compiled by the Association of New York State Cannerymen, was 1,042,346 cases calculated as No. 2's. The pack in 1928 was 826,268 cases and in 1927, it was 692, 806.

The wax bean pack, calculated as No. 2's, amounted to 456,441 cases, as compared with 346,201 cases in 1928, and 196,105 cases in 1927.

#### Army Asks Bids on Canned Foods

The Quartermaster Supply Officer, at Brooklyn, N. Y., is asking for bids on various subsistence supplies. Bids are to be opened at 10.00 a. m. November 18th. Among canned foods included are apples, apple butter, apricots asparagus, lima beans, wax and string beans, beets, blackberries, blueberries, cherries, cream style corn, loganberries, oysters, peaches, pears, peas, pickles, pineapple, sweet potatoes, pumpkin, rhubarb, salmon, sauerkraut, soups, and spinach.

#### Medical Association's Committee on Foods

The announcement by the American Medical Association that its Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry had established a Committee on Foods to pass upon food products for which health claims might be made was noted in the Information Letter for October 19. This Committee, the Association is now advised, consists of Dr. Morris Fishbein, of Chicago, Editor of the Journal of the American Medical Association; Dr. E. F. Dubois, of New York City; Dr. L. B. Mendel, of New Haven, Conn; Dr. H. C. Sherman, of New York City, and Dr. W. M. McKim Marriott, of St. Louis, Mo.

#### Truck Crop Markets

A very unsettled condition was observed in fruit and vegetable markets during the week ended November 2, according to the U. S. Market News Service. Carlot movement of nearly all products decreased except cabbage and carrots.

Apple forwardings dropped to 6,400 cars and potatoes required only 4,375 cars, compared with 5,625 a year ago.



To accompany Information Letter No. 331, November 9, 1929.

# CORN AND TOMATO PRODUCTION REPORT

The Bureau of Agricultural Economics on November 9 issued the following statistics on the production of sweet corn and tomatoes for manufacture. These figures are subject to revision in the final report to be issued in December.

## TOMATOES

States	Acreage		Production	
	1928	1929	1928	Preliminary
	Acres	Acres	Tons	Tons
New York . . . . .	12,500	13,600	73,800	99,300
New Jersey . . . . .	33,000	33,000	118,800	198,000
Pennsylvania . . . . .	3,600	3,420	13,000	19,200
Ohio . . . . .	10,400	10,950	30,300	54,800
Indiana . . . . .	49,870	59,840	149,600	221,400
Illinois . . . . .	5,130	5,440	17,400	18,000
Michigan . . . . .	1,660	1,990	9,600	9,000
Iowa . . . . .	4,810	4,570	16,800	20,100
Missouri . . . . .	18,700	20,940	33,700	60,700
Delaware . . . . .	13,500	13,500	32,400	71,600
Maryland . . . . .	23,910	27,500	66,900	143,000
Virginia . . . . .	6,000	6,840	14,400	23,900
Kentucky . . . . .	5,500	6,820	11,600	30,700

Delaware . . . . .	13,500	13,500	32,400	72,000
Maryland . . . . .	23,910	27,500	66,900	143,000
Virginia . . . . .	6,000	6,840	14,400	23,900
Kentucky . . . . .	5,500	6,820	11,600	30,700
Tennessee . . . . .	10,220	9,200	18,400	18,400
Arkansas . . . . .	19,600	22,600	43,100	65,500
Colorado . . . . .	1,600	1,920	11,800	9,600
Utah . . . . .	5,650	6,780	65,500	73,900
California . . . . .	25,790	32,450	201,200	227,200
Other states . . . . .	4,070	4,480	15,200	13,400
U. S. total . . . . .	255,510	285,840	972,500	1,377,700

# SWEET CORN

Maine . . . . .	10,770	14,400	30,200	43,200
New Hampshire . . . . .	1,110	1,420	2,600	3,600
Vermont . . . . .	1,940	2,460	4,700	5,700
New York . . . . .	27,000	24,600	32,400	36,900
Pennsylvania . . . . .	4,140	4,470	4,100	3,600
Ohio . . . . .	27,910	27,700	39,100	52,600
Indiana . . . . .	27,390	28,200	38,300	33,800
Illinois . . . . .	58,300	62,220	128,300	124,400
Michigan . . . . .	8,930	8,220	16,100	13,200
Wisconsin . . . . .	14,780	14,780	29,600	31,000
Minnesota . . . . .	28,790	39,000	74,900	101,400
Iowa . . . . .	39,860	43,450	99,600	99,900
Nebraska . . . . .	5,470	5,740	9,800	10,900
Delaware . . . . .	4,060	3,900	7,300	5,800
Maryland . . . . .	35,500	38,700	53,200	50,300
Other states . . . . .	5,800	5,750	13,900	15,500
U. S. total . . . . .	301,750	326,040	584,100	631,800



Orange movement decreased a bit to 1,145 cars, of which California shipped 920, while Florida increased to 170 cars and Alabama started 50.

Grapefruit shipments totaled only 510 cars. Texas decreased to 135, but Florida originated 360 cars of grapefruit and 70 carloads came from Porto Rico.

Grape forwardings dropped sharply to less than 4,500, as the season in eastern states neared an end.

The Florida season for string beans opened with a dozen cars. Most of the early truck crops originate in Florida and Texas, and greatly increased plantings are indicated this season for string beans, eggplant and peppers. Southwestern lettuce acreage shows a sharp gain, but Texas spinach acreage will be reduced.

Cabbage markets developed further weakness as the seven-days' shipments again increased to 1,470 cars. Movement from New York State increased to 690 cars, While Wisconsin started 515 and Minnesota 160 cars.

As the carlot supply of tomatoes decreased, the market took on a firmer tone. Shipments dropped to 385 cars, of which California originated 365.

## CARLOT SHIPMENTS

Commodity	Oct. 27 Nov. 2 1929	Oct. 20-26 1929	Oct. 28 Nov. 3 1928	Total this season to Nov. 2	Total last season to Nov. 3	Total last season
Apples, total .....	6,421	5,922	8,153	57,518	77,167	127,523
Eastern states .....	2,553	3,387	3,587	32,158	41,599	62,703
Western states .....	3,868	4,685	4,566	25,360	35,568	64,819
Cabbage .....	1,472	1,336	1,303	89,775	39,689	35,938
Carrots:						
1929 season .....	184	85	72	426	408	16,469
1928 season .....	185	91	74	10,409	8,471	7,011
Cauliflower .....	117	135	134	1,997	1,649	9,899
Green peas .....	17	23	18	3,185	4,681	4,688
Mixed deciduous fruit .....	26	40	30	4,933	6,590	6,490
Mixed vegetables .....	249	343	230	28,638	39,604	33,384
Peas .....	285	297	305	18,774	22,792	24,439
Peppers .....	53	69	26	3,131	3,479	8,589
Spinach .....	65	72	55	10,016	10,398	10,973
String beans:						
1929 season .....	12	1	4	13	4	8,356
1928 season .....	97	219	93	8,856	6,569	6,707
Tomatoes .....	384	301	390	37,898	29,573	30,356

## Business Conditions

Commercial transactions during the week ended November 2, as indicated by check payments, were considerably larger than in either the previous week or the same period of last year, according to the weekly statement of the Department of Commerce. Steel-plant activity for the latest reported week showed no change from the previous week but was lower than a year ago. Receipts of cattle at the principal primary markets showed a gain over last year, while hog receipts were likewise greater

than a year ago. Freight-car loadings covering the latest reported week showed a decline in the distribution of goods from the preceding week and from the corresponding period of 1928.

Wholesale prices were generally lower than in either the preceding week or the same period of 1928. Bank loans and discounts were greater than in either the previous week or the same period of 1928. Interest rates on time funds averaged lower than in either period, while call-loan rates, averaging higher than in the preceding week, were below the level of last year. Prices for stocks listed on the New York Stock Exchange were substantially lower than in the previous week but were still somewhat above the level which prevailed a year earlier. Bond prices averaged lower than in either prior period. Business failures were less numerous than in either the preceding week or the same week of 1928.

## CAR LOADINGS

	Total	Miscellaneous	Merchandise L. C. L.	Other
Week ended October 26 .....	1,133,810	449,076	270,299	414,435
Preceding week .....	1,185,510	483,365	271,002	430,543
Corresponding week, 1928 .....	1,163,974	456,843	270,030	437,101
Corresponding week, 1927 .....	1,112,810	446,756	268,518	397,536

## California Peach Pack in 1929

Final figures on the peach pack of California have been issued by the Cannery League of California, as follows:

	Cling Peaches	North Cases	South Cases	Total Cases
1929 .....	6,975,521	998,565	7,973,086	
1928 .....	14,036,000	775,606	14,811,606	
1927 .....	9,843,790	985,891	10,829,681	
1926 .....	12,690,687	964,071	13,654,758	
1925 .....	8,321,003	927,582	9,248,585	
1924 .....	5,207,268	159,336	5,366,604	
	Free Peaches			
1929 .....	254,199	138,388	392,477	
1928 .....	105,806	58,324	164,130	
1927 .....	105,379	215,234	320,613	
1926 .....	371,628	245,691	617,319	
1925 .....	562,561	635,783	1,198,344	
1924 .....	606,462	137,139	743,601	

## Preliminary Truck Crop Acreages Reported

Preliminary estimates of acreage of certain truck crops planted or intended to be planted in fall and early states have been issued by the Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates, from which the following figures are taken:

	1927-28 Acres	1928-29 Acres	1929-30 Acres
Beans, snap (Florida, Texas) .....	12,130	8,540	8,690
Peppers (Florida) .....	2,510	1,340	1,300
Spinach (Texas) .....	25,000	29,630	24,770
Tomatoes, fall (Florida, Texas) .....	1,300	5,750	2,250
Tomatoes, early (Florida, 4 counties) .....	11,690	19,700	14,000

a Intended.



The latest information with regard to the outlook for Cuban tomatoes is that there can be expected an acreage as large as last year, when 23,000,000 pounds were imported into this country. Results last season were satisfactory.

The situation on the Mexican West Coast is very uncertain. Shipments have declined during the past three years, but this decline resulted from floods, frost, disease, and in the last season from revolutionary activities rather than a reduction in acreage. Reports from consuls state that interest in tomato growing is decreasing and other crops are being turned to in some of the largest producing areas.

#### Definitions for Fish Meal Adopted

Previously adopted definitions for fish meal and fish residue meal were amended and adopted as official definitions of the Association of Food Control Officials of the United States at their meeting in Washington on November 1. These amended definitions are as follows:

"Fish meal is the clean, dried, ground tissues of undecomposed whole fish, and/or fish cuttings, with or without the extraction of part of the oil.

"Fish residue meal is the clean undecomposed residue from the manufacture of glue from non-oily fish."

Definitions for crab meal and shrimp meal were also tentatively adopted.

A committee appointed last year to consider this subject had prepared tentative definitions for a large variety of fish and shellfish meals, based largely on information furnished by the Bureau of Fisheries. These definitions, however, were not adopted by the Association and were referred to a special committee for further study.

#### Canned Chicken Becomes Popular

Increase in consumer demand for canned chicken is resulting in greater demand for government inspection of the poultry at canning plants, according to a statement of the Department of Agriculture. Inspection for condition and wholesomeness under the Food Products Inspection Law is now maintained at eleven poultry canning plants by the U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

This service is rendered by the Department of Agriculture at the request of the canning plants, and through cooperation with the New York Live Poultry Commission Merchants Associ-

ation, the National Poultry, Butter, and Egg Association, and the Minnesota State Department of Agriculture. The individual birds are examined by a qualified veterinarian at the time the entrails are removed, and birds which are diseased, unwholesome, or otherwise unfit for food are destroyed.

Poultry canning firms using the service are permitted to state on the labels of their cans: "Inspected and certified by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture." In September nearly 2,000,000 pounds of poultry was inspected at the eleven plants.

#### Phony Peach Disease Quarantine Extended

The quarantine area for the "phony" peach disease has been extended by the Department of Agriculture to 19 additional counties in Georgia, and 6 new counties in Alabama, where infestations were discovered by inspectors of the Bureau of Plant Industry. Movement of peach nursery stock and other restricted articles to outside points and from the generally infested area to the lightly infested area is prohibited except under permit.

#### "Should Children Eat Canned Foods?"

"Should Children Eat Canned Foods?" is the title of an article by Anne Pierce, in the November number of "Parents," in which the canning industry will be very much interested, because it presents facts concerning the relative nutritive value of raw foods prepared at home and the same types of foods commercially canned, in a very entertaining and convincing manner.

Miss Pierce emphasizes the fact that in the so-called fresh foods the vitamins are often lost through improper cooking in the home, or because their outer coats of bran have been removed, thus often lessening the vitamin and mineral content. She emphasizes the fact that canned foods do not lose their vitamin and mineral content in their journey from "pasture to palate."

#### Idle Power Equipment Data to be Secured in Census

The Census of Manufacturers for 1929 it has been announced, will call for information on the amount of idle power equipment in manufacturing plants throughout the country. Definite data on this subject have never been secured, although unofficial estimates have been made that as much as 50 per cent of the installed power in the United States is practically idle through obsolescence, overcapacity, or other causes.

### Analysis of Fruit and Vegetable Markets

New York City constitutes the largest market in the United States for fresh fruits and vegetables, according to a study just completed by the Bureau of Railway Economics, into the origin and distribution of the 18 principal fresh fruits and vegetables produced in the United States during 1928. In that year, more than 125,500 cars were unloaded there, approximately one-fifth of the total number of cars received at 66 principal markets.

Chicago ranked second with 64,410 cars; Boston, third, with 36,839 cars; Philadelphia, fourth, with 34,121; Detroit, fifth with 23,526 and Pittsburgh, sixth, with 21,535 cars.

New York City not only was the largest market for all products combined, but also the largest for each of the individual products.

Fresh fruits and vegetables, the study showed, have wide distribution, Cleveland and Detroit alone receiving supplies from 44 states; New York and Chicago from 43; Boston from 42; Columbus, Ohio and Cincinnati and Milwaukee from 41; Philadelphia, Louisville and Indianapolis from 40; Pittsburgh, Birmingham and Minneapolis from 39; Atlanta, Jacksonville, Youngstown, Akron, Toledo and Terre Haute from 38; Buffalo, Newark, Memphis, Nashville, St. Paul and St. Louis from 37 and Baltimore, Dayton, Evansville and New Orleans from 36.

Fresh fruits and vegetables from California, Arizona and Washington, the study showed, reached all of the 66 markets, while those from Texas reached 65 and those from Florida reached 64. Fresh fruits and vegetables from Colorado and Oregon reached 63 of the principal markets, those from Idaho, 62, and those from Arkansas and Louisiana, 61.

### New Turkish Tariff May Affect Costs of Living in Turkey

An increase of nearly 100 per cent is foreseen by the Constantinople grocery trade in the retail price of imported canned foods, due to the new Turkish tariff effective on October 1. The American trade commissioner at Constantinople reports that the increase in living costs, it is believed, will particularly affect foreigners who are obliged to rely to a greater extent on imported products.

### Tribute to Association's Research Work

In an article on "The Scientific Revolution" appearing in the World's Work for November, E. E. Free states:

"No large business that expects to grow larger or even to keep going considers it safe nowadays to get along without a

department of scientific research, sometimes costing millions of dollars a year. The laboratories of the General Electric Company and of the Westinghouse interests, of General Motors, the Eastman Kodak Company, and United States Steel, of the telephone interests and of the National Canners Association are world famous. The majority, even of smaller business organizations, are rapidly following suit."

#### Publications of Interest to Canners

*Asparagus.*—An illustrated bulletin of 28 pages on asparagus and its culture has been issued as Extension Leaflet No. 49 by the Massachusetts Agricultural College at Amherst, Mass.

*Blakemore strawberry.*—A new variety of strawberry originated by the U. S. Department of Agriculture is described in Circular No. 93 issued by that Department. The new variety will be introduced this winter in the coastal plain section of North Carolina by the Department, working in cooperation with the North Carolina Coastal Plain Test Farm at Willard, N. C. The new variety is a cross of the Missionary and Howard 17, and is stated to show a number of the good characteristics of each parent.

*Fusarium wilt of tomato.*—Bulletin 64 of the Virginia Experiment Station, Norfolk, gives a description of fusarium wilt and furnishes a progress report on the developing and testing of resistant varieties at that station. From observations of experiments, the authors conclude that the Marglobe variety is the most desirable commercial variety yet available for Virginia farms where fusarium wilt has caused trouble.

*Marketing Georgia peaches.*—The Georgia Experiment Station at Experiment, Ga., has issued a 21-page bulletin (No. 165), on the marketing of Georgia peaches, which furnishes detailed information as to importance of this crop, data on culls, care in handling, arrivals in central markets, etc.

*Mexican bean beetle.*—A preliminary report issued by the Virginia Experiment Station at Norfolk as Bulletin 65 furnishes a brief history of this pest in eastern Virginia and discusses the character of injury it does, its life history, and control.

*Pruning suggestions for Indiana apple orchards.*—In Extension Bulletin No. 160 of the Purdue Experiment Station, Lafayette, Ind., suggestions are given as to the type and amount of pruning that may be practiced in apple orchards with greatest profit. The bulletin of 40 pages has a number of excellent half-tone illustrations.